

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
27 JUN 1938

Whitehall

Annual REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and

Sanitary Administration

OF

THE RURAL DISTRICT

OF

ABERGAVENNY

FOR THE YEAR 1937



By O. G. COLDICOTT, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

1938

Abergavenny :
Dover & Co., Frogmore Street,



***Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Monk Street,
Abergavenny.***

May, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MISS SAYCE AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Circumstances of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

General Statistics.

Area	...	62,694 acres.
Population	...	8,355.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (on December, 1937)		1,941.
Rateable Value on 31st December, 1937	...	£30,912.
Sum represented by a Penny rate		£107.

Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.

The Abergavenny Rural District is mainly mountainous in character ; the altitude varying from 95 feet to 1,955 feet above sea level. Agriculture is the main occupation ; except in the south western portion of the Parish of Llanfoist Fawr ; where a number of industrial workers are engaged in the collieries and other industrial undertakings in the adjoining Urban District of Blaenavon.

Vital Statistics.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ...	90	40	50
Illegitimate ...	5	1	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	11'37		
Still Births—Legitimate ...	4	2	2
Illegitimate ...	2	—	2
Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	0'72		
Deaths ...	101	54	47
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...			12'09
Death rate per 1,000 registered births			9'4
Deaths of Infants under one year of age ...			1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births).			10'5
Deaths from Puerperal causes		...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			Nil

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Staff consists of a whole time Sanitary Inspector holding the qualified certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board; and a part time Medical Officer of Health. Having completed the housing inspections and records concerning them, the part time Sanitary Inspector's services were not required after March, 1937.

The Laboratory facilities during 1937 were unchanged; and full use has been made of them for the testing of public water supplies; and milk samples from schools and farms in the district.

The Motor Ambulance, under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association, has proved very satisfactory during the year in conveying road casualties and sick persons to and from the various hospitals serving the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I.--WATER.

The major improvement in public water supply made during 1937, was that to *Mardy*. The Tyn-y-Wern Scheme for supplying this district was completed in March, 1937 ; and in December, 1937, forty-one houses had been connected to the Council's main.

At *Govilon*, a mile of 2 inch main was laid along the main road in order to give an adequate supply to all the houses along this route ; those previously connected to smaller main being transferred.

At *Bryn-y-Gwenin*, the well in Spring Cottage Farm field was reconstructed ; and the water conveyed to a storage tank on the side of the main road ; the supply for the inhabitants of the adjoining houses being obtained by means of a bib-tap fixed in the tank.

Llanvihangel Crucorney. The consulting Engineers, after careful consideration, were of the opinion that the two schemes—Peny-parc and Bryn Arw—formulated for the supply of this district, were inadequate ; the readings after a period of drought being far below what would be required. The same opinion was arrived at in the case of Glannant ; the existing main supply ; the readings there falling to as little as four gallons per minute (13th October, 1937). Their report went on to state that it appeared to them that the only practical solution to the difficulty was to develop a scheme based upon the further utilisation of

the Tyn-y-wern Springs. The overflow from these springs after supplying the Mardy, was found to be 120 gallons per minute (7th October, 1937); and a Scheme has been drafted making use of this supply ; using a hydrostat to raise a sufficient quantity of water for the area. As mentioned in last year's report, the question of a satisfactory water supply to this district, is one which requires immediate attention.

The Deri. In order to provide a more satisfactory supply to one of the cottages a length of $\frac{3}{4}$ " main has been laid.

Llanfoist. The 3" main has been extended to the site of the new Council houses ; and 1" branches taken to various points on the site for the Contractors to connect the service pipes.

II.—DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The Mardy. By the end of December, 1937, the Sewerage Scheme for this district was well in progress, including the Sewer from Maindiff Court and the Council's Sewage Disposal Works.

There is no public drainage in the rest of the District, but the sewage from all Council houses is treated in the disposal works at the site of the houses ; and in all houses recently erected by private enterprise a septic tank and filter is installed, allowing 4 cubic feet capacity in the septic tank, and 1 cubic yard of filtering media per adult.

III.—RIVERS & STREAMS.

There is no pollution in the area and no action has been necessary.

IV.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the Mardy district, where an adequate water supply is now available, the water carriage system is being in-

stalled, and pail closets discarded. The same applies to other parts of the district where a water supply is available ; and I would suggest that the time has come to consider formulating a Sewage Scheme for Govilon and Llanfoist.

V. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection of dry house refuse is made weekly in the districts of Mardy, Llanfoist, Llanelen, Govilon, Pwlldu, Garndyrris and Llanover. A monthly collection is made in Llanwenarth Citra, and a scheme for including Llanvihangel Crucorney and Pandy is being formulated. When this scheme materialises it is hoped that Grosmont will be included.

VI.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A classified statement of inspections carried out and notices served is included in this report.

VII.—SHOPS.

There are few shops in the district and no action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, has been necessary.

VIII.—SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary.

IX.—SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS.

There are no such facilities in the district, and therefore no action has been necessary.

X.—ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action has been necessary.

XI.—SCHOOLS.

The Water Supply and Sanitary arrangements in the Schools are systematically inspected.

Housing.

By January, 1937, a complete list of the cases of over-crowding in your district had been compiled by the Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Owing to the fact that alternative accommodation is not available until more Council Houses are erected, the over-crowding problem in many parts of your district cannot be dealt with effectively ; and it is hoped that the various schemes on hand will be completed as soon as possible.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	...	111
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	111
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	14

II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	14
---	----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year—

(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served under Housing Act, 1930, or corresponding provisions of Housing Act, 1936	...	Nil
---	-----	-----

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring faults to be remedied ...	9
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices...	9

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930, and corresponding provisions of Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made ...	Nil
---	-----

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of Housing Act, 1930, and corresponding provisions of Housing Act, 1936.

Number of separate tenants or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
--	-----

IV.—Housing Act, 1935—Over-crowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings over-crowded at end of year ...	23
2. Number of families dwelling therein ...	23
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ...	115
(b) Number of new cases of over-crowding reported during the year ...	9
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	6
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	27

Milk Supply and Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. During the year the cowsheds and dairies in the district have been systematically inspected ; and action taken where necessary. Forty-five samples of milk have been tested by the Public Analyst ; and in those cases where an unsatisfactory report was obtained the owners of the cowsheds were informed ; and another sample taken later.

Each month a sample of Grade A (T.T.) Milk has been taken from Coldbrook Home Farm and submitted for examination by the County Pathologist.

Meat and other Foods. There are only two Slaughter Houses in the district, in use for about two hours each week. These are visited when slaughtering is in progress ; and the carcasses of 94 sheep and lambs, and 96 pigs have been inspected and passed fit for human consumption. Whenever possible, slaughtering is carried out in the Abergavenny Abattoir.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

As will be seen from the accompanying table, the number of notifiable infectious diseases occurring in the district during 1937 was small, and there was no epidemic. Judging from the notifications received from head teachers, the most prevalent non-notifiable infectious diseases were Mumps and Chicken Pox.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during 1937.**

Cases notified showing age incidence.

DISEASE.	1—5 years	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—50	Total all ages.
Scarlet Fever ...	4	4	—	1	—	2	11
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to Monmouth Isolation Hospital; the remainder being isolated at home. There were no deaths.

In an endeavour to reduce the high rate of Maternal Mortality in this County, it has been arranged that one of the preparations brought out recently for use in such cases shall be available in all districts. The supply for this district is stored at the Cottage Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of New Cases occurring during 1937, and Deaths are given below :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				Total	DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory			Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	1	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	1
25—35 ...	2	1	—	—	3	2	1	—	—
35—50 ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
50—65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	2	1	2	9	2	2	—	1

Prevention of Blindness.

No special action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Posters with information about destruction of Rats, etc., have been distributed throughout the district ; and the Sanitary Inspector has supplied bait to all who have made use of the facilities offered to them in this matter.

Govilon King George V. Playing Field.

This field was officially opened in September, 1937 ; and has proved of great benefit to the residents ; particularly the children in Govilon.

Adoption of Lighting and Watching Act 1833.

Govilon has also benefited during the year by the adoption of this Act ; the Street lighting having been provided in Llanfoist en route.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

O. G. COLDICOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.







